

REMARKS

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The final Office Action dated December 28, 2005 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1-7 have been amended and are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicants wish to thank Examiner Han for taking the time to speak with the Applicants' representative on February 13, 2006. During the telephonic Examiner Interview, the Applicants' representative and Examiner Han discussed the above-referenced claim amendments and the cited references.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0030993 to *Itoh* (hereinafter "*Itoh*"). The Office Action also rejected claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Itoh* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,099,134 to *Taniguchi et al.* The Applicants traverse the rejection. During the Telephonic Examiner Interview, Examiner Han kindly agreed that the above-noted claim amendments include subject matter not disclosed in the cited references. Accordingly, the Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.


The application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the Applicant's representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37

C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 28, 2006

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